

Conversation Contents

Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

Steven Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>

From: Steven Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>
Sent: Mon May 20 2019 07:05:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: David L Boyd <dboyd@blm.gov>, jconnell@blm.gov
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

FYI

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Block, Molly" <molly_block@ios.doi.gov>
Date: May 20, 2019 at 6:22:30 AM MDT
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: Steven Hall <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request

Ben -

I know you're working with BLM Colorado on this. Please see recusal response in bold below.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Date: Thu, May 16, 2019 at 9:38 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal request
To: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Cc: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>

Hi David,

Thanks for the help on this. I have a few more questions I was wondering if you might be able to help me with:

I'm looking into a project that Rocky Mountain Resources is proposing for a limestone mine on BLM land in Garfield County, Colorado. The project, if approved, would expand the mine despite opposition from local residents and the a number of permit violations RMR has been found to have committed at the mine site in the past several years. Local residents have complained that the local BLM has not responded to their concerns and that they have had to visit BLM headquarters in D.C. to voice those concerns.

1. Has RMR resubmitted a modified plan of operations for the Mid-Continent mine in Garfield County, Colorado, since March? If so, which office is in charge of

evaluating that plan - BLM Colorado Northwest District or BLM in D.C.?

2. Did BLM in D.C. at all review the latest RMR plan or those submitted in November 2018 or March 2019 and thereafter rejected by the bureau? If so, is the normal for the D.C. office to evaluate state applications for projects?
3. If Garfield County finds on June 1 that the mine is not in compliance with its county agreement, how will that effect BLM's processing of the RMR plan of operations?
4. Has BLM met with or communicated with Michael Stratton regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal? Has BLM met with or communicated with Chad Brownstein regarding the Mid-Continent expansion proposal?
5. Has BLM consulted with anyone in the DOI Secretary's office about the RMR project?
6. Has Secretary Bernhardt recused himself from policy decisions regarding the RMR project, given its ties to his former employer Brownstein Hyatt?

David Bernhardt will not participate in any particular matter involving specific parties in which his former law firm represents a party. This is clearly stated in his recusal.

7. Is there anything you can say regarding resident's concerns that the Mid-Continent expansion project would present a problem to the town regarding quality of life?

Any insight you might be able to offer would be most appreciated.

Thank you,
Ben Lefebvre
Politico
703-647-8775

From: Boyd, David <dboyd@blm.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 11:18 PM
To: Ben Lefebvre <blefebvre@politico.com>
Cc: Hall, Steven B <sbhall@blm.gov>
Subject: Proposal request

Hi Ben,

Once we have a proposal for the Mid-Continent Quarry that we deem complete under the mining regulations, we will post it on-line and begin the detailed environmental review, which includes opportunities for public comment.

This completeness review is what is referenced in the letter you cite. We are not releasing the draft proposals we deem incomplete.

You might try the proponent, RMR, who has released drafts to the City, County and media.

--
David Boyd

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Molly Block
Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior